UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/44
19 January 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 19 JANUARY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AFGHANISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit the text of a statement dated 19 January 1996 by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan on Afghan-Pakistani relations (see annex).

I would like also to recall that the text of the statement by Mr. Abdul Rahim Ghafoorzai, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan, before the plenary of the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on agenda items 20 (d) and 54 (see A/50/PV.95) constitutes the background information for the contents of the annex.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. G. Ravan FARHÂDI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

96-01142 (E) 220196 220196

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Annex

Statement issued on 19 January 1996 by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan on Afghan-Pakistani relations

The Government of Pakistan has unilaterally decided and publicly declared that a Pakistani official mission including functionaries and government experts in many technical fields is taking the necessary steps to travel in a convoy departing from Quetta, Pakistan, to the territory of Afghanistan and to proceed to Kandahâr and Herât in order to reach Torghundi in Afghanistan and from there to Turkmenistan.

The Government of Pakistan has also put pressure on Pakistani banks and commodity stores to open their offices and branches in Kandahâr and Herât where the Pakistani-sponsored Taliban militia are still ruling.

All these Pakistani undertakings are done without any prior notification to or permission from the Government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

The Government of Pakistan is well aware, however, that the visit and the passage of an official convoy through the territories of an independent State, transiting towards a third country, must be based on a previous official agreement between the two neighbouring countries, in this case Pakistan and Afghanistan. This is the clear requirement of the universally recognized and accepted rules of international law, usages and practices.

The Government of Pakistan's move is an open and evident violation of these principles and an attempt directed against the national sovereignty and the territorial integrity of Afghanistan, and goes against the terms of the General Assembly's consensus resolution on Afghanistan adopted on 19 December 1995, of which the Pakistani delegation was a sponsor and participant.

This unilateral Pakistan action is a proof of the total disregard of the Government of Pakistan for the resolutions and declarations of the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council on Afghanistan.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan, in accordance with its principled policy, is desirous to establish its bilateral relations with Pakistan on the basis of equality of rights of States and mutual respect, and is seeking the solution of the differences through negotiations and reciprocal understanding.

The Government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan considers any undertaking of the Pakistani Government and agencies in relations to Afghan-Pakistani bilateral relations done without the agreement of the Government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan as an intervention in Afghan internal affairs and legally null and void.

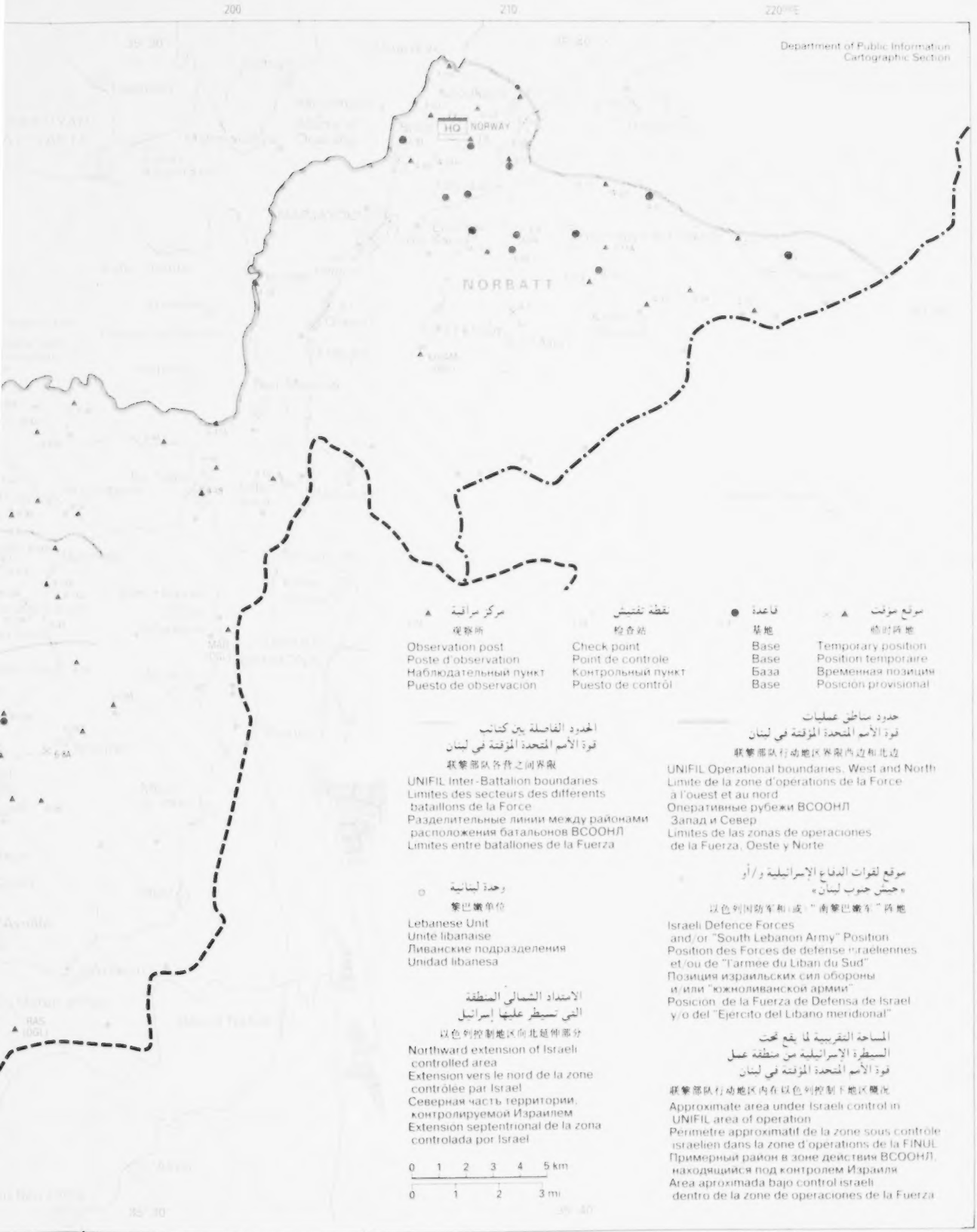
The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan would like the Government of Pakistan to put a decisive end to its hostile acts against Afghanistan. Such acts will further aggravate the state of the mutual relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

وزع بعثة الأمم المتحدة المؤقتة في لبنان
في شهر كانون الثاني/يناير ١٩٩٦

1996 年1月联黎部队的部署情形

UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT AS OF JANUARY 1996
DÉPLOIEMENT DE LA FINUL EN JANVIER 1996
ДИСЛОКАЦИЯ ВСООНЛ НА ЯНВАРЬ 1996
DESPLIEGUE DE LA FPNUL EN ENERO DE 1996

Map No. 3000 Rev. 39 UNITED NATIONS
January 1996


Department of Public Information
Cartographic Section
HQ
NORWAY
NORBATT
200
210
220°E
310°N
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290°N
مركز مراقبة
观察所
Observation post
Poste d'observation
Наблюдательный пункт
Puesto de observacion
نقطة تفتيش
检查站
Check point
Point de controle
Контрольный пункт
Puesto de control
قاعدة
基地
Base
Base
База
Base
موقع مؤقت
临时阵地
Temporary position
Position temporaire
Временная позиция
Posicion provisional
الحدود الفاصلة بين كتائب
قوة الأمم المتحدة المؤقتة في لبنان
联黎部队各营之间界限
UNIFIL Inter-Battalion boundaries
Limites des secteurs des differents
bataillons de la Force
Разделительные линии между районами
расположения батальонов ВСООНЛ
Limites entre batallones de la Fuerza
حدود مناطق عمليات
قوة الأمم المتحدة المؤقتة في لبنان
联黎部队行动地区界限西边和北边
UNIFIL Operational boundaries, West and North
Limite de la zone d'operations de la Force
à l'ouest et au nord
Оперативные рубежи ВСООНЛ
Запад и Север
Limites de las zonas de operaciones
de la Fuerza, Oeste y Norte
وحدة لبنانية
黎巴嫩单位
Lebanese Unit
Unite libanaise
Ливанские подразделения
Unidad libanesa
الامتداد الشمالي المنطقة
التي تسيطر عليها إسرائيل
以色列控制地区向北延伸部分
Northward extension of Israeli
controlled area
Extension vers le nord de la zone
controlée par Israel
Северная часть территории,
контролируемой Израилем
Extension septentrional de la zona
controlada por Israel
موقع لقوات الدفاع الإسرائيلية و/أو
«جيش جنوب لبنان»
以色列国防军和/或"南黎巴嫩军"阵地
Israeli Defence Forces
and/or "South Lebanon Army" Position
Position des Forces de défense israéliennes
et/ou de "l'armée du Liban du Sud"
Позиция израильских сил обороны
и/или "южноливанской армии"
Posicion de la Fuerza de Defensa de Israel
y/o del "Ejercito del Libano meridional"
المساحة التقريبية لما يقع تحت
السيطرة الإسرائيلية من منطقة عمل
قوة الأمم المتحدة المؤقتة في لبنان
联黎部队行动地区内在以色列控制下地区概况
Approximate area under Israeli control in
UNIFIL area of operation
Perimètre approximatif de la zone sous contrôle
israelien dans la zone d'operations de la FINUL
Примерный район в зоне действия ВСООНЛ,
находящийся под контролем Израиля
Area aproximada bajo control israeli
dentro de la zone de operaciones de la Fuerza
0 1 2 3 4 5 km
0 1 2 3 mi

UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/45
22 January 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON

(for the period from 20 July 1995 to 22 January 1996)

Introduction

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of Security Council resolution 1006 (1995) of 28 July 1995, by which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for a further period of six months, until 31 January 1996. It covers developments since my last report of 19 July 1995 (S/1995/595).

Situation in the area of operation

2. During the last six months, hostilities continued in south Lebanon between the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) and its local Lebanese auxiliary, the de facto forces (DFF), on the one hand, and armed elements who have proclaimed their resistance against the Israeli occupation on the other. UNIFIL continued its efforts to limit the conflict and to protect the inhabitants from the fighting. Through its network of checkpoints and observation posts and an active programme of patrolling, the Force did its best to prevent its area from being used for hostile activities. It also deployed as necessary to provide a measure of protection to the villages and to farmers working in the fields.

Hostilities

3. UNIFIL observed 118 operations by armed elements against IDF/DFF (12 in the latter part of July, 18 in August, 14 in September, 18 in October, 27 in November, 18 in December 1995 and 11 in the first half of January 1996) as compared to 129 in the previous period. There were also numerous reports of attacks against IDF/DFF positions north of the Litani river, bringing the total number of operations to over 350. Most attacks were carried out by a group known as the Islamic Resistance, the military wing of the Shiite Muslim Hizbullah organization. The Shiite movement AMAL increased its attacks against IDF/DFF. Palestinian factions were responsible for a small number of attacks.

In their operations, the armed elements employed small arms, roadside bombs, rockets, mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and anti-tank missiles. Armed elements fired a total of around 1,000 mortar rounds, rockets and anti-tank missiles.

4. IDF/DFF continued their own attacks and retaliatory firing against armed elements, employing artillery, mortars, tanks and aircraft. UNIFIL recorded more than 20,000 artillery, mortar and tank rounds fired by IDF/DFF, as compared to 16,500 in the previous period. IDF increased its patrolling, including long-range ambush patrols outside the Israeli-controlled area (ICA). The use of assault helicopters for both reconnaissance and combat support increased. From early November to early December, two Israeli batteries of 175-millimetre artillery guns near Marjayoun fired more than 5,000 high explosive rounds to targets north of the area of operation of UNIFIL. This sustained shelling, whose purpose has remained unclear, appears not to have resulted in serious casualties or damage; however, it kept tension at a high level. UNIFIL raised this shelling with the Israeli authorities, with a view to having it stopped.

5. As before, Israeli naval vessels patrolled Lebanese territorial waters in the south and imposed restrictions on the local fishermen. At times, this involved firing at or near fishing boats and temporary detention of Lebanese fishermen. UNIFIL intervened with the Israeli authorities repeatedly for the release of those detained.

6. During the reporting period, the targeting of civilians decreased. UNIFIL confirmed one civilian fatality from IDF fire (see subparagraph (b)). There were two instances of firing by armed elements into Israel, drawing Israeli retaliation:

(a) On 28 November, approximately 15 rockets were fired towards Israel. Unlike other occasions, there was no specific cause for that firing. A few hours later, an Islamic Resistance official was killed in south Lebanon when his booby-trapped car exploded. Subsequently, some 20 rockets were fired by the Islamic Resistance towards Qiryat Shemona and also to areas north of Nahariya. A few Israeli civilians suffered light injuries, mainly from shock. In retaliation, IDF/DFF fired more than 600 artillery, tank and mortar rounds, causing minor material damage. There were also several attacks by Israeli jets and helicopters in and north of UNIFIL's area of operation. Later in the day, Hizbullah issued a communiqué listing a number of grievances, including the prolonged shelling, air attacks, the blockade of Lebanese fishermen and the demolition of houses in Bayt Yahun (see below), as the cause for its initial rocket salvo;

(b) On 29 December, the Islamic Resistance fired mortars to an IDF/DFF position at Al Qantarah. IDF retaliated with tank and artillery fire, using fléchette antipersonnel munitions. One civilian was killed, four others were wounded and some houses in the village of Qabrikha were damaged. Several hours later, two salvos of rockets were fired into Israel, impacting around Qiryat Shemona and causing material damage.

Firing at UNIFIL

7. There were 45 instances of firing at or close to UNIFIL positions and personnel by armed elements, mainly during exchanges of fire with IDF/DFF. Such firings were reported to the Lebanese Army and, where possible, protested to the leadership of the groups involved.

8. There were 139 instances of firing at or close to UNIFIL personnel and positions by IDF/DFF. These instances generally took place during exchanges of fire with armed elements. In such an incident, on 30 October, three Israeli artillery rounds landed in or close to the Irish battalion headquarters. In some cases, UNIFIL positions received small arms or machine-gun fire for no apparent reason. All such firings were protested to the Israeli authorities. A very serious incident occurred on 10 December, when a foot patrol of the Norwegian battalion near the village of Blat came under fire from Israeli tanks using fléchette antipersonnel shells. Fortunately, they caused only light injuries to three of the soldiers. The Israeli authorities have apologized for this incident, which occurred despite the fact that IDF knew that UNIFIL personnel were moving in the target area. The IDF investigation, the findings of which were communicated to UNIFIL, indicated that the firing resulted from mistakes by Israeli personnel. Recalling a similar incident in the same area in December 1993, in which a Norwegian soldier was killed and another seriously injured by Israeli fire, the United Nations has asked the Israeli authorities to take effective measures, including disciplinary measures commensurate with the seriousness of the incident.

Israeli-controlled area (ICA)

9. Within the ICA, Israel also maintained a civil administration and security service. Movement between the ICA and the rest of Lebanon was strictly controlled; crossing points were closed frequently, in one case for two months, causing difficulties for the inhabitants. The ICA remained economically dependent on Israel, and an estimated 3,000 of its inhabitants held jobs in Israel; access to such jobs was controlled by DFF and the security services. There were again reports of forced recruitment into DFF. During the reporting period, work arranged by the Lebanese authorities to maintain the infrastructure in the ICA was stepped up, especially the improvement of roads.

10. During the month of November, IDF/DFF demolished around 20 civilian houses in Bayt Yahun village, located in the ICA where it overlaps with the Irish battalion sector. The occupants of the destroyed houses, generally elderly people left behind to care for the properties, were compelled to vacate their homes at short notice, and in some cases houses were demolished with personal effects still in them. Those who were thus made homeless sought shelter in abandoned buildings in other parts of the village, where they live under very difficult conditions, in some cases sharing their quarters with livestock. UNIFIL has protested this matter to the Israeli authorities.

11. Since November, a few families living in Rshaf, near the south-western corner of the Irish battalion sector, have been forced by IDF/DFF to spend the nights in abandoned houses near an IDF/DFF position in another part of the village, evidently to shield that position from attacks. After consulting with

the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), UNIFIL raised this matter with the Israeli authorities, with a view to having them end this practice, which is in contravention of international humanitarian law.

Humanitarian assistance

12. UNIFIL continued to extend humanitarian assistance to the civilian population in the form of medical care, essential supplies and engineering work and repairs to buildings damaged as a result of hostilities. UNIFIL personnel also escorted farmers so that they could work their fields that are within range of IDF/DFF positions and assisted in putting out fires set off by firing by IDF/DFF. UNIFIL battalion medical centres and mobile teams continued to provide care to civilians at a rate of 2,500 patients per month. Specific humanitarian projects were implemented using resources made available by troop-contributing Governments. UNIFIL helped to distribute educational equipment provided by UNICEF and assisted the United Nations Development Programme in its south Lebanon emergency rehabilitation programme. The Force cooperated closely on these matters with the Lebanese authorities, United Nations agencies and programmes operating in Lebanon, ICRC and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

13. As in the past, UNIFIL detonated mines, roadside bombs and unexploded remnants of war and dismantled ordnance of various types in the area of deployment. A total of 100 such controlled explosions were carried out.

Organizational matters

14. As of January 1996, UNIFIL comprised 4,649 troops, from Fiji (591), Finland (509), France (249), Ghana (672), Ireland (631), Italy (44), Nepal (669), Norway (748) and Poland (536). In addition, UNIFIL employed 561 civilian staff, of whom 134 were recruited internationally and 427 locally. The deployment of UNIFIL is shown on the annexed map. Major-General Stanislaw F. Woźniak of Poland continued as Force Commander.

15. UNIFIL was assisted in the performance of its tasks by 57 military observers of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO). These unarmed officers are organized as Observer Group Lebanon and are under the operational control of UNIFIL. They man five observation posts along the Lebanese side of the Israel-Lebanon armistice demarcation line. They also operate five mobile teams in the ICA.

16. The streamlining of UNIFIL, with which the Security Council concurred in resolution 1006 (1995), is well under way and should be completed by May 1996. The guiding principle in this effort remains to maintain the operational effectiveness of the Force and to achieve savings by rationalizing administrative and support services. UNIFIL will continue its efforts to achieve further economies in those areas.

17. The withdrawal of the Norwegian Maintenance Company will be completed by May 1996. I have accepted with appreciation the offer of the Government of Poland to provide a replacement.

18. I regret to report that a Polish soldier died of natural causes and three Norwegian soldiers were wounded as a result of firing. Since the establishment of UNIFIL, 205 members of the Force have died: 76 as a result of firing or bomb explosions, 84 in accidents and 45 from other causes. A total of 317 have been wounded by firing or by mine or bomb explosions.

19. In my previous report, I mentioned that the Lebanese authorities had begun to pay rent to owners of land and property used by UNIFIL. However, not all owners have received payment and there is continuing controversy over the lists of owners, prepared by the Lebanese authorities. It is hoped that this problem will soon be resolved.

20. UNIFIL maintained close contacts with the Lebanese authorities on matters of mutual concern. Those authorities provided valuable assistance in connection with the rotation of troops and logistic activities in Beirut. The Lebanese army was helpful in defusing confrontations with armed elements. It also provided accommodation for some UNIFIL contingents while on leave in Lebanon. The Force continued to cooperate with the Lebanese internal security forces on matters pertaining to the maintenance of law and order. In December 1995, Lebanon and the United Nations concluded a status-of-the-Force agreement in respect of UNIFIL.

Financial aspects

21. By its resolution 50/89 of 19 December 1995, the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the Force at a rate not to exceed $10,774,800 gross per month for a period of up to six months from 1 February 1996 to June 1996, should the Security Council decide to extend the Force's mandate beyond 31 January 1996. This authorization is based on a phased implementation of the streamlining of the Force (see paragraph 16 above) and a continuation of its existing responsibilities. Appropriate financial provisions will be sought from the General Assembly at its resumed fiftieth session in respect of the period after 30 June 1996, should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of the Force beyond that date.

22. As of 31 December 1995, unpaid assessed contributions to the UNIFIL Special Account amounted to $203.5 million. The total unpaid assessed contributions for all peace-keeping operations at that date amounted to $1.7 billion.

Observations

23. The situation in southern Lebanon has remained essentially unchanged and continued to be tense and volatile. Israel maintained its occupation of parts of south Lebanon, where the Israeli forces and their local auxiliary continued to be targets of attacks by groups that have proclaimed their resistance to the occupation. UNIFIL's mandate, contained in Security Council resolution 425 (1978) and reaffirmed by subsequent resolutions, remained unfulfilled.

24. Lebanon's position is described in a letter that the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to me on

17 January 1996 (S/1996/34). In the same letter, the Permanent Representative informed me of his Government's decision to request the Security Council to extend UNIFIL's mandate for a further period of six months.

25. Israel outlined its position with regard to the situation in southern Lebanon in a letter that the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to me on 1 August 1994 (S/1994/915) and confirmed in a letter of 18 January 1995 (S/1995/58).

26. In previous reports, I expressed concern at the targeting of civilians and the attendant loss of life. During the last six months, these incidents decreased. I urge the parties to continue to exercise restraint, with a view to ending this practice altogether. I am bearing in mind the risk of escalation, which remains high in a situation where the actions of the parties on the ground are influenced by local dynamics as well as strategic considerations.

27. Although there has been no progress towards the implementation of the mandate of UNIFIL, the Force's contribution to stability in the area and the protection it is able to afford the inhabitants remain important. I therefore recommend that the Security Council accept the Lebanese Government's request and extend the mandate of UNIFIL for another period of six months, that is, until 31 July 1996.

28. In this connection, I should like to recall that UNIFIL, like other peace-keeping operations, is not an end in itself but should be viewed in the context of the broader objective of achieving a durable peace. At the time of reporting, renewed negotiations are under way between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic in the framework of the Middle East peace process. These negotiations deserve every encouragement and support, and it is to be hoped that they will quickly lead to tangible results. It is equally to be hoped that progress will be made soon towards resolving the situation in the Israel-Lebanon theatre as well.

29. I must again draw attention to the serious shortfall in the funding of the Force. At present, unpaid assessments amount to some $203.5 million. This represents money owed to Member States that contribute the troops who make up the Force. I appeal to all Member States to pay their assessments promptly and in full and to clear all remaining arrears. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Governments contributing troops to the Force, in particular those of developing countries, for their understanding and patience in these difficult circumstances.

30. In my previous report, I referred to the fate of two Palestinians who, on 16 April 1995, after their release from prison, were deported to Lebanon by the Israeli authorities. They were denied entry by the Lebanese authorities and turned to UNIFIL for assistance. Since 18 April 1995, the two men have been accommodated at UNIFIL headquarters. Efforts to arrange passage to a country or territory that would be willing to accept them have so far not been successful. I call upon the parties concerned to find a solution to this humanitarian problem.

31. In conclusion, I wish to pay tribute to Major-General Stanislaw F. Woźniak, the Force Commander, and to all the men and women under his command for the manner in which they have carried out their difficult and often dangerous task. Their discipline and bearing have been of a high order, reflecting credit on themselves, on their countries and on the United Nations.

UNITED
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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/46
22 January 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 22 JANUARY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that the Iraqi motor boat Hamidi was intercepted by two Kuwaiti military fast patrol boats near marker No. 17 in the Khawr Abd Allah waterway as it left Khawr al-Zubayr port at 1520 hours on 18 December 1995. The two Kuwaiti vessels, each of which was crewed by five military personnel under the command of a first lieutenant, circled the Iraqi boat while their crews fired into the air. The soldiers then boarded the boat in a provocative manner, beat the captain and insulted him, members of his crew and the pilot responsible for navigation. They ordered the crew to discontinue their voyage and to head back to Khawr al-Zubayr. They left the boat at 1530 hours, having threatened to detain the crew if they continued their voyage.

I request that you intervene, in conformity with your responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations, to ensure that such unjustified acts of provocation by the Kuwaiti side are not repeated and to affirm that side's liability for the ensuing increase in regional tension, which affects the security and stability of the region.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

96-01209 (E) 230196 230196 240196

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/47
23 January 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

FIFTEENTH PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN LIBERIA

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of Security Council resolution 1014 (1995) of 15 September 1995, which extended the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) until 31 January 1996, and resolution 1020 (1995) of 10 November 1995, which adjusted the mandate of UNOMIL. The report provides an update on developments in Liberia since my report of 18 December 1995 (S/1995/1042), as well as on the implementation of the new mandate of UNOMIL.

II. POLITICAL ASPECTS

2. The period under review has been dominated by the question of the disarmament and demobilization of combatants. The Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) began to deploy its troops to several regions of Liberia for this purpose on 14 December 1995. UNOMIL began to revise its own deployment accordingly. During the latter half of December, extensive consultations were held between the Council of State, my Special Representative, Mr. Anthony Nyakyi, and the ECOMOG Field Commander, Major-General John Inienger, with a view to facilitating this process. The Chairman of the Council of State, Mr. Wilton Sankawulo, and the Vice-Chairmen of the Council travelled extensively throughout the country in order to explain the peace process and to prepare combatants for disarmament and demobilization. In addition, the faction leaders issued directives to their combatants to cooperate with ECOMOG and UNOMIL in the implementation of the Abuja Agreement (S/1995/742, annex). However, the peace process suffered a setback when General Roosevelt Johnson's wing of the United Liberation Movement of Liberia for Democracy (ULIMO-J) attacked ECOMOG in Tubmanburg on 28 December 1995. Details of this incident are provided in section III below.

3. The situation in Tubmanburg raised concerns that the fighting might spread to other areas under the control of ULIMO-J and derail the peace process. In order to avoid this, the Council of State initiated immediate consultations with ECOMOG and UNOMIL. A goodwill mission, composed of representatives of the

Liberian National Transitional Government (LNTG), ULIMO-J and other factions, as well as ECOMOG and UNOMIL, visited Bong Mines, Kakata and Todee on 4 January 1996. Similar visits to Tubmanburg have taken place since then. UNOMIL has facilitated discussions among those concerned on the evacuation of the wounded, the exchange of prisoners and the bodies of those killed in the fighting, and the delivery of emergency humanitarian relief.

4. Following the Tubmanburg incident, the Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), President Jerry J. Rawlings of Ghana, sent a delegation to Liberia on 5 January 1996. The delegation was headed by Captain Kojo Tsikata, who was accompanied by the Chairman's Special Representative for Liberia, Ambassador J. Gbeho, and the Eminent Person of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) for Liberia, Reverend Canaan Banana. My Special Representative joined them in their meeting with the Council of State. The delegation conveyed to the Council its concern over the developments in Tubmanburg and urged it to continue its collective efforts to avert a setback in the peace process. The Council underscored the need for the early conclusion of a status-of-forces agreement with ECOWAS to clarify the status of ECOMOG in Liberia. The delegation assured the Council that that issue would be brought to the attention of ECOWAS member States, particularly the ECOMOG troop-contributing countries.

5. On 6 January 1996, another delegation, led by the Chief of Defence Staff of the Nigerian Armed Forces, Major-General Abdulsalam Abubakar, visited Liberia and met with the Council of State. The delegation, which included the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, Chief Tom Ikimi, told UNOMIL that the developments in Tubmanburg confirmed the risks ECOMOG had taken in deploying its troops without the strength and resources necessary to carry out its mandate effectively. Chief Ikimi expressed his deep concern over the delay in the delivery of logistic resources pledged to ECOMOG and emphasized the need for further international assistance in this regard.

6. Since then, Mr. Roosevelt Johnson has called for the exchange of prisoners and the replacement of the ECOMOG contingent in Tubmanburg. He has indicated to my Special Representative that he regards these issues as major obstacles to the stabilization of the situation there. On 16 January, the ULIMO-J Chief of Staff ordered his combatants in Tubmanburg to release all civilians and any ECOMOG soldiers held by them. He also ordered them to turn over to ECOMOG all weapons and equipment seized during the incident. The ECOMOG Force Commander has assured the ULIMO-J leadership that he will release any ULIMO-J fighters held by ECOMOG once all ECOMOG soldiers are released and those missing in action are accounted for.

7. While efforts to contain the situation are continuing, reports of fighting and looting of villages by ULIMO-J combatants in other parts of Liberia are still being received.

Elections

8. In accordance with the Abuja Agreement, legislative and presidential elections are scheduled to take place on 20 August 1996. In this connection, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Department of

Development Support and Management Services of the United Nations Secretariat, in consultation with the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs, are resuming their assistance to the Ad hoc Elections Commission of Liberia to help to prepare for the elections.

9. The Abuja Agreement called upon the United Nations, OAU and ECOWAS to monitor the operations of the Elections Commission. In its resolution 1020 (1995), the Security Council defined the role of UNOMIL in the electoral process and requested it "to observe and verify the election process, in consultation with OAU and ECOWAS, including the legislative and presidential elections to be held in accordance with provisions of the peace agreements". In my report of 23 October 1995 (S/1995/881), I indicated that, in due course, I would submit additional recommendations about the role the United Nations could play in that regard.

10. It is my intention to appoint a Senior Electoral Officer who, under the direct supervision of my Special Representative, will follow the preparatory phases of the electoral process on a full-time basis. I also intend to send a technical mission to Liberia, which will consult LNTG, OAU and ECOWAS in drafting a framework for the observation and verification of the electoral process. I will thereafter submit further recommendations to the Security Council.

III. MILITARY ASPECTS

Status of the cease-fire and disengagement of forces

11. The fighting in Tubmanburg was the most serious cease-fire violation since the signing of the Abuja Agreement on 19 August 1995. It began on 28 December 1995, when ECOMOG positions in the town, as well as along the highway up to Kle, were attacked and overrun by ULIMO-J fighters. Further fighting was reported at Kle when ECOMOG reinforcements being sent to Tubmanburg were intercepted (see addendum to the present report for map). After lengthy consultations between the Council of State, ECOMOG, UNOMIL and ULIMO-J, fighting ceased on 4 January 1996. The situation remains tense, however, and areas west of the Po river bridge, as well as most of Bomi County, are still under the control of ULIMO-J forces. All UNOMIL personnel deployed to Tubmanburg were safely evacuated, with the assistance of ECOMOG, by 30 December 1995. It has been reported that some fighters of the Lofa Defence Force (LDF) were involved in the attacks against ECOMOG.

12. The Tubmanburg incident can be traced to the deep-seated suspicions between the two wings of ULIMO. The ULIMO-J commander in the area has alleged that ECOMOG had sided with the forces of Alhaji Kromah's wing (ULIMO-K) and arrested unarmed ULIMO-J combatants. However, ECOMOG has reported that, prior to the incident, ULIMO-J fighters in Tubmanburg repeatedly violated the terms of the cease-fire, entered the town with arms and harassed civilians.

13. ECOMOG has reported that it suffered 94 casualties (16 dead and 78 wounded) as a result of the Tubmanburg incident, with an additional 10 soldiers reported

missing in action. ECOMOG arms, ammunition and equipment were also seized by ULIMO-J. Civilian and ULIMO-J casualties are so far undetermined.

14. During the period under review, several additional cease-fire violations were reported. These included harassment of civilians, humanitarian workers and ECOMOG troops by combatants in Bomi, Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount, Lofa and Sinoe counties. Skirmishes were also reported between the rival wings of ULIMO at Gbaama (15 kilometres north of Tubmanburg) and Lofa Bridge on 16 December 1995. In addition, on 24 and 25 December 1995, ECOMOG forces in Gbaama were attacked in separate incidents by the two wings of ULIMO. Five ECOMOG soldiers were wounded and robbed in these attacks. On 27 December, ULIMO fighters loyal to Alhaji Kromah seized a humanitarian convoy at Zorzor. The fighters released the humanitarian team and later returned the vehicles, but retained the relief supplies. Clashes between the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) and the Liberian Peace Council (LPC) were reported in Sinoe County on 9 January. These clashes were apparently the result of a local dispute that the leaders of the two factions are endeavouring to resolve. UNOMIL has also received reports that ULIMO-J forces entered Robertsport on 8 and 10 January 1996 and looted the town, including the Médecins sans Frontières - Netherlands clinic located there.

15. An attack on a displaced persons camp and ECOMOG checkpoint by ULIMO-J fighters at Be Goba, 7 kilometres south-west of Kakata, on 16 and 17 January 1996 was repulsed by ECOMOG but resulted in the displacement of about 6,000 persons towards Monrovia. On 17 January, a relief convoy consisting of elements from ECOMOG, UNOMIL, United Nations agencies and LNTG, under the escort of the ULIMO-J Chief of Staff, reached Tubmanburg and distributed relief items to displaced persons living in the area. The convoy returned safely to Monrovia, notwithstanding harassment by ULIMO-J fighters. UNOMIL military observers accompanying the convoy have reported that the villages on the Monrovia-Tubmanburg highway are largely deserted and that ULIMO-J armed fighters are moving freely along the highway.

16. The Cease-fire Violations Committee has been seized of the reported incidents. On 28 December 1995, it dispatched a team to Tubmanburg to investigate the 16 December violation by the two wings of ULIMO at Gbaama. However, the team had to abandon its investigation because of the fighting in Tubmanburg. The Committee is now investigating the events in Tubmanburg on a priority basis.

17. No progress in the disengagement of forces has been reported and, for the most part, fighters continue to occupy their positions and maintain checkpoints. Indeed, some factions have re-established checkpoints from which they had earlier withdrawn: NPFL continues to occupy positions on Saint Paul river bridge and also 10 to 15 kilometres inside Lofa County; LPC has re-established its checkpoints around Buchanan. ULIMO-J and NPFL have reoccupied the checkpoints on the Kakata-Bong Mines road; and ULIMO-J has re-established positions in most of Bomi County and on the Kle-Tubmanburg highway.

Deployment of ECOMOG and UNOMIL

18. In accordance with the revised plans of ECOMOG and UNOMIL, deployment was scheduled to be completed by 31 January 1996. During the month of December, despite logistic and manpower constraints, ECOMOG deployed contingents to Gbarnga (Bong County), Greenville (Sinoe County), Suehn (Lofa County) and Lofa Bridge (Bomi/Grand Cape Mount Counties). ECOMOG had also planned to deploy to Voinjama (upper Lofa County), Zwedru (Grand Gedeh County), Tappita (Nimba County) and Harper (Maryland County) by 15 January 1996. However, this and any further deployment of ECOMOG has been suspended in the light of the Tubmanburg incident. ECOMOG has withdrawn from the Lofa Bridge area following attacks on its troops there, as well as from Bong Mines, because of increased insecurity in the area. ECOMOG checkpoints along the Kakata-Bong Mines road have also been removed. In view of the Tubmanburg incident, ECOMOG has stated that no further deployment will be undertaken unless the factions provide concrete guarantees for the security of ECOMOG personnel.

19. The total military strength of UNOMIL is currently 82 observers out of the 160 authorized by the Security Council in resolution 1020 (1995) (see annex). During the reporting period, UNOMIL completed reconnaissance of most of the designated deployment areas, commenced patrolling in some of these areas, and deployed a disarmament team to Tubmanburg. However, the team was forced to withdraw on 30 December, on the recommendation of the local ECOMOG commander, because of increased insecurity in the area. Eight mobile disarmament teams are on stand-by for deployment as soon as conditions permit, including one that is to deploy shortly to Gbarnga, where ECOMOG has deployed a battalion. Further deployment of UNOMIL, as well as any further increase in its military strength, will depend on the deployment of ECOMOG troops and on progress in the peace process.

IV. DISARMAMENT AND DEMOBILIZATION

20. During the period under review, the ECOMOG Disarmament Committee has continued to make arrangements for the commencement of disarmament. Its work focused on the harmonization of procedures and the collection of data from the factions on their arms and ammunition, as well as on the prisoners held by them.

21. Although NPFL and ULIMO have made some changes to their respective assembly sites and have yet to propose alternative locations, UNOMIL has carried out reconnaissance of most sites so far designated. Rehabilitation of the facilities for disarmament and demobilization will be undertaken as security conditions permit.

22. The Council of State has requested that all communications or requests concerning the Liberian factions should be channelled through the Disarmament and Demobilization Commission, which is charged with promulgating and supervising national policy on disarmament and demobilization. The Council stated that such requests would include activities and reports of the Cease-fire Violations Committee, UNOMIL and ECOMOG deployment and non-governmental organization (NGO) escort and security provisions. My Special Representative has assured LNTG that UNOMIL will cooperate with the Commission in its work. At

the same time, he clarified that the Government's request should not alter the Cease-fire Violations Committee mechanism provided for under the peace accords. In addition, he confirmed that, while UNOMIL will continue to inform LNTG of its activities, UNOMIL must continue to enjoy complete freedom of movement throughout Liberia, in accordance with its mandate and the status-of-mission agreement concluded with LNTG in 1993. After consultation with the humanitarian community, my Special Representative informed LNTG that he welcomed its provision of escorts for humanitarian activities. He pointed out, however, that care must be taken to ensure respect for the principles and protocols governing the delivery of humanitarian assistance and to allow the humanitarian community freedom of movement in carrying out its work.

23. As noted in my earlier reports, UNOMIL and ECOMOG have elaborated a detailed plan for disarmament and demobilization in consultation with LNTG, the factions and the humanitarian community. This plan, which was based on the provisions of the Abuja Agreement, was forwarded to the Council of State in November 1995 for its consideration. On 29 December, the Disarmament and Demobilization Commission informed UNOMIL that LNTG wished to introduce significant changes to the plan. UNOMIL is consulting ECOMOG and the Commission on the proposed changes, with a view to finalizing the disarmament and demobilization procedures, so that the process can begin as soon as the security situation has improved.

V. HUMAN RIGHTS

24. UNOMIL has continued to monitor the human rights situation in Liberia and to carry out investigations of major violations. The fighting in Tubmanburg has had serious human rights implications. While civilian casualties are as yet undetermined, they are estimated to have been significant. UNOMIL confirmed that, on 30 December 1995, ULIMO-J fighters forced civilians out of the government hospital, where they had taken refuge, and used them as human shields for their positions in the town. As part of the same tactic, the fighters generally prevented civilians from fleeing the town. Also on 30 December, a mortar landed at the government hospital, killing several civilians and injuring many more.

25. In an attack launched by ULIMO-J forces on ECOMOG positions in the town of Kle on 2 January 1996, several casualties were reported among civilians caught in the fighting. At the time of the attack, the town was overcrowded as a result of the influx of a large number of civilians who had fled from the Tubmanburg area. Various sources have reported that ULIMO-J fighters intentionally opened fire on local and displaced civilians, both in Tubmanburg and at Kle, particularly those considered supportive of ECOMOG. It is reported that thousands of civilians are still displaced and trapped between ECOMOG and ULIMO-J forces outside Kle.

26. As stated above, UNOMIL has facilitated discussions on the evacuation of wounded, exchange of prisoners and release of the bodies of soldiers killed in the fighting. On 9 January, ULIMO-J released an ECOMOG prisoner and several bodies to ECOMOG officials on the understanding that all parties would consider ULIMO-J's concerns about its combatants that may have been detained by ECOMOG.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) remains seized of the matter. On 27 December 1995, NPFL released four formally recognized ULIMO prisoners, as well as six others reported to be members of LPC.

27. UNOMIL is currently investigating the human rights situation in LPC-controlled areas in the south-east. During a visit to Gbarnga on 21 December 1995, a UNOMIL team saw five detainees whom NPFL holds responsible for an incident in Tappita last September, in which several civilians were killed by armed fighters of NPFL. With regard to this and other violations committed in areas under factional control, the question of whether the accused are to be held and tried under national or factional jurisdiction remains unresolved.

28. UNOMIL continues to work with LNTG, United Nations agencies and local and international NGOs to facilitate support for the Liberian judicial system and human rights groups. My Special Representative has, on several occasions, including United Nations Human Rights Day, exhorted Liberian faction leaders to exert proper command and control over their combatants so that the lives, well-being and property of civilians can be protected and human rights abuses stopped. He has also called upon the Council of State to take vigorous measures to ensure general respect for human rights.

VI. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

29. As indicated in my last report, the United Nations Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Office is now fully operational and functioning under the overall authority of my Special Representative. The Coordination Office is responsible for the coordination of humanitarian assistance as well as for the reintegration aspects of demobilization. In this context, it is currently engaged in the urgent task of designing programmes and activities that would lead to the reintegration of the demobilized. While this planning process is being undertaken in collaboration with the local humanitarian community and concerned national entities, the Coordination Office is also focusing on the immediate requirement for concerted humanitarian action in response to the needs arising from the recent fighting.

30. The humanitarian assistance community has continued its efforts to reach previously inaccessible parts of the country. The opening of some highways in the past few months has permitted the provision of assistance to populations that had been cut off for nearly three years. Although relief convoys are generally escorted by unarmed factional representatives, poor communications between faction leaders and their fighters in the hinterland have impeded humanitarian assistance activities. An OXFAM convoy of nine vehicles heading for Voinjama was seized by armed ULIMO fighters at Zorzor on 27 December 1995. While the OXFAM team was released the following day, the vehicles were returned only on 8 January 1996 after several interventions by my Special Representative. As a result of this incident, all relief activities to Lofa County have been suspended. My Special Representative and the Humanitarian Coordinator are working closely with LNTG to ensure the security of relief convoys and personnel.

31. The civilian population in the Tubmanburg area has suffered greatly as a result of the recent fighting. As of 12 January, 17,500 displaced people, including Sierra Leonean refugees formerly living in Kle, had registered for assistance. These people are now clustered in the vicinity of the Po river. LNTG, assisted by United Nations agencies, NGOs and international organizations, has organized the provision of emergency assistance to the victims of the fighting.

32. A yellow-fever epidemic, which broke out in Buchanan in September 1995 and affected 365 persons, 9 of whom died, has now been brought under control, through the concerted efforts of LNTG, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and NGOs. On 8 December, WHO confirmed one isolated case of Ebola virus infection in Maryland County, close to the border with Côte d'Ivoire. The WHO representatives in both countries are monitoring the situation closely.

33. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) held a regional conference in Monrovia in early December in preparation for the organized repatriation of the estimated 750,000 Liberian refugees. On 3 January, LNTG and UNHCR concluded an agreement establishing the framework for the repatriation and reintegration of refugees. LNTG has also signed a declaration on the right of all Liberians to return to their places of origin in safety and dignity. With increased security near the Guinean border in northern Liberia, some 7,000 Liberian refugees have crossed into Nimba County since the latter part of 1995. The influx still continues. It is expected that the recent opening of some roads to the border counties, as well as the reconstruction by the World Food Programme (WFP) of the bridge linking north-eastern Liberia with Côte d'Ivoire, will further accelerate the voluntary return of refugees. UNHCR continues to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to 53,000 of the Sierra Leonean refugees in Liberia. However, an estimated 65,000 Sierra Leonean refugees in upper Lofa County have not received assistance since December 1993 because of security conditions.

VII. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

34. While economic activity continues to increase, maintenance of this trend will depend on the restoration of secure conditions throughout the country. The opening of roads to the northern and south-eastern regions has brought about a perceptible increase in local produce in the markets of Monrovia.

35. A special consultation meeting of LNTG and its international partners is scheduled to take place in March 1996 to address the recovery and reconstruction process. In preparation for the meeting, a joint UNDP/World Bank mission and an International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission recently visited Liberia. Several teams will be deployed shortly to undertake rapid assessments of the education, food security, health and information sectors, as well as infrastructure, private sector, public administration and resettlement issues in preparation for the meeting. A socio-economic assessment of displaced persons and returnees will also be undertaken. It is envisaged that a steering committee set up by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs and UNDP will oversee the work.

36. Other United Nations agencies and programmes have continued to carry out relief activities while, at the same time, reorienting their efforts towards rehabilitation. UNICEF continues its activities in children and women's education and the provision of safe water and sanitation. WFP, apart from its regular food distribution and school feeding, is emphasizing food-for-work schemes for the reopening of roads and is working with LNTG and others in the resettlement of returnees and ex-combatants. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has fielded a team of national consultants to prepare a national food security strategy. LNTG, UNDP and the International Labour Organization (ILO) have agreed on the implementation of a US$ 1 million project to train ex-combatants and other war-affected persons in order to increase their income-earning capacity. Negotiations are under way with other donors for a further US$ 2 million training fund and US$ 1.8 million in tool kits.

VIII. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

37. In its resolution 50/210 of 23 December 1995, the General Assembly appropriated an amount of $9,773,600 gross for the financing of UNOMIL for the month of January 1996. The Assembly also authorized me to enter into commitments in the amount of $12,169,600 gross for the maintenance of UNOMIL for the period from 1 February to 31 March 1996, subject to the extension of its mandate by the Council.

38. Should the Council decide to extend UNOMIL's mandate, as recommended in paragraph 45 below, I shall seek the additional resources required from the General Assembly at its resumed fiftieth session.

39. As of 15 January 1996, unpaid assessed contributions to the UNOMIL special account since its inception amounted to $7.7 million. The total of outstanding assessed contributions for all peace-keeping operations on 15 January 1996 was $1,703 million.

40. With regard to the Trust Fund for Liberia, as of 15 January 1996, contributions totalling some $24 million had been received and expenditures of some $21.9 million had been authorized.

IX. OBSERVATIONS

41. Recent events in Liberia have caused serious concern and have regrettably delayed the implementation of the Abuja Agreement further. ECOMOG has suffered as a result of the recent attacks on its troops. I extend my condolences to the troop-contributing countries and to the families of the ECOMOG soldiers who were killed or wounded in the fulfilment of their peace-keeping duties, as well as to the families of innocent civilians who lost their lives.

42. The peace process is now at a critical juncture and the full support of all concerned will be required to overcome the recent setbacks. The faction leaders must ensure that their forces effectively observe the cease-fire, disengage without further delay and provide the cooperation necessary to enable ECOMOG and

UNOMIL to initiate disarmament and demobilization as soon as possible. LNTG must provide its full support to these efforts and play an active role in ensuring that the Liberian factions extend the necessary cooperation to ECOMOG and UNOMIL. The international community, for its part, must provide the resources necessary to enable ECOMOG to fulfil its responsibilities effectively, since the continued lack of such support could jeopardize the implementation of the Abuja Agreement.

43. LNTG has stressed that ex-combatants must be provided opportunities to enable them to reintegrate successfully into civilian society. It is fully recognized that the success of the demobilization process will depend on whether ex-combatants can find ways of sustaining themselves other than by use of the gun. The creation of such opportunities depends, in part, on the provision of funds by the donor community for reintegration projects, as well as on private investment to revitalize the economic sector. It is not likely, however, that such support will be forthcoming unless a safe and secure environment can be established throughout the country. This depends, in turn, on the successful disarmament of combatants.

44. The schedule of implementation attached to the Abuja Agreement (S/1995/742, appendix) called for the disengagement of forces to be completed by 26 September and for disarmament to commence on 1 December 1995. As indicated in my earlier reports, this timetable underestimated the delays and obstacles involved in ensuring that combatants are fully prepared to participate in the disarmament and demobilization process and in deploying the personnel and equipment necessary to carry out this complex process. The fighting in Tubmanburg and subsequent developments have shown that the causes for delay have become more serious and that they can be overcome only if the faction leaders are truly determined to proceed with the peace process. They should bear in mind that ECOWAS and the international community cannot be expected to support the peace process in Liberia indefinitely, in the absence of a clear political will on their part to abide by and implement the commitments they freely entered into.

45. Notwithstanding the recent setbacks described in the present report, I recommend that the Security Council consider the extension of UNOMIL for a period of four months, until 31 May 1996, at which point the situation can be reviewed, keeping in mind that, under the Abuja Agreement, the elections are scheduled to be held before the end of August 1996. During this period, I expect LNTG and faction leaders to provide their full cooperation to ECOMOG and UNOMIL in stabilizing the situation and in vigorously moving ahead with the implementation of the Abuja Agreement. I intend to keep the Security Council regularly informed of relevant developments in this regard and to submit a progress report by the end of March 1996. I also call on the international community to reconsider urgently its current level of support to ECOMOG and to ensure that the necessary logistic assistance is provided to enable the force to carry out its demanding responsibilities.

Annex

Composition of the military component of UNOMIL as at 19 January 1996

	Observers	Others	Total
Bangladesh	5	7 a/	12
China	7		7
Czech Republic	6		6
Egypt	11		11
Guinea-Bissau	5		5
India	8		8
Jordan	6		6
Kenya	8		8
Malaysia	8		8
Pakistan	6		6
Uruguay	5	—	5
Total	75	7	82

a/ Medical staff.

UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/47/Add.1
23 January 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

FIFTEENTH PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN LIBERIA

Addendum

Map

(See overleaf)

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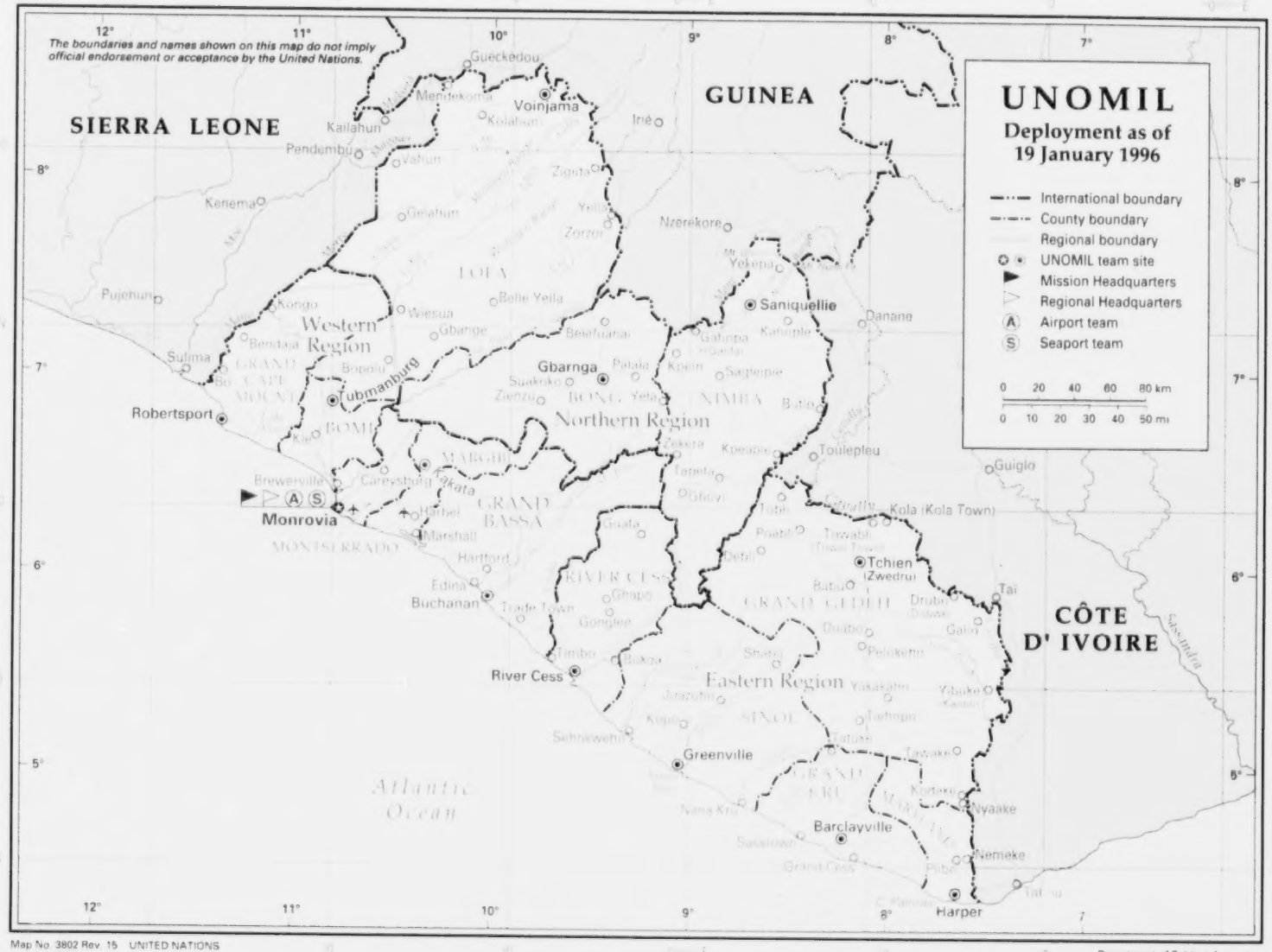

Map No. 3802 Rev. 15 UNITED NATIONS
January 1996

Department of Public Information
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